

# The Calvin Ball Bulletin

## District Two

November 2012 Edition

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## Welcome!

Temperatures are dropping and holidays are right around the corner! And while you stay warm and enjoy the time with friends and family, I wanted to take a moment and share with you our October Edition highlighting informational programs, services and area events happening within our District Two community and beyond.

Know of any great community events? Please share them with me by emailing [cball@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:cball@howardcountymd.gov).

If you are not already signed up to receive this newsletter, email "subscribe" to [cball@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:cball@howardcountymd.gov) and I will be happy to add you to our distribution list!



Dr. Calvin Ball, District 2

## Homestead Tax Credit – APPLY NOW!

Homeowners who have not yet filed for a Homestead Eligibility Application have until **Monday, December 31, 2012** to submit an application to continue being eligible for the credit. Legislation enacted by the 2007 session of the General Assembly requires homeowners to submit a one-time application in order to continue their eligibility for the credit which limits the amount of assessment increase on which a homeowner will pay property taxes in that tax year for their primary residence.

The application is required as some property owners were improperly receiving the credit on vacation homes and rental properties. To request an application, email [HCredit@dat.state.md.us](mailto:HCredit@dat.state.md.us) or click [here](#).

## Happy Thanksgiving – County Government Offices Closed!

While you enjoy a wonderful holiday with your family and friends.... Howard County Government offices, courts, animal shelter, indoor recreation facilities, parks, senior centers and the landfill will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday on **Thursday, November 22**. There will be no trash or recycling pick-up on Thanksgiving Day, and the County's holiday "slide" schedule will be in effect. Visit [www.howardcountymd.gov/holidayschedule.htm](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/holidayschedule.htm) for a complete explanation of the schedule. The landfill and parks will re-open on **Friday, November 23**, but County Government offices, courts, animal shelter and indoor recreation facilities will remain closed, except the Meadowbrook Athletic Complex which will be open for scheduled activities only. Parking meters are free on **November 22**, but all parking regulations and fees will be in effect on **November 23**. Howard Transit and Connect-A-Ride buses will not run on Thanksgiving Day, but will resume regular service on Friday.

The 9-1-1 Center, Police and Fire departments remain staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For emergencies, call 9-1-1. For non-emergencies, please call **410-313-2200**.

County offices will re-open at regular business hours on **Monday, November 26**.

## Clothing Drive!

The Youth Teen Center Teen Outreach Committee is sponsoring a clothing drive through **November**. Please donate your gently used clothes so that they will benefit those greatly in need this winter season. Items may be dropped off at The Other Barn in the Oakland Mills Village Center, **5853 Robert Oliver Place, Columbia, MD 21045**. For more information, please call **410-992-3726**.

## Deck The Halls With Natural Materials!

You are cordially invited to join the Oakland Mills Community Association and the Master Gardeners of Howard County as they present tips on "Decking the Hall with Natural Materials". This event will be held on **Wednesday, November 28, 2012 7pm** at The Other Barn. Materials on the forest floor, in the supermarket and in the winter garden can be turned into decorations to instill the warmth of the holiday season into your home.

The program is free. Registration is preferred, but not required. For more info, call **410-730-4610** or visit Oakland Mill's [website](#).

## Symphony of Lights!

The Symphony of Lights is a spectacular display of 70 larger-than-life, animated and stationary light creations. It's a long-standing community tradition and a "must-see" during the holiday season. This breath-taking display will run through **Sunday, January 6, 2013**, remaining open 7 days a week, **6-10pm** including holidays except closed **December 31<sup>st</sup>** for the Midnight at 7 event.

The cost is \$20 for cars seating up to eight passengers; 9-24 passengers, \$45, 25 or more, \$125. For more info, call **410-740-7840**.



## 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Holiday Mart!

Come celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> year of holiday mart on **Saturday, December 1, 2012 10am-5pm** at the Gary J. Arthur Community Center, **2400 State Route 97 in Cooksville, MD**. Admission is \$4 per person ages 5+. There will be door prizes, children's craft corner, concessions and much more! For a brochure that lists the crafters and a \$1.00 coupon, click [here](#). For more details, call **410-313-4452**.

## Women Hall of Fame Nominations Sought!

Howard County's Commission for Women is seeking nominations for outstanding women to be inducted into the 2013 Women's Hall of Fame. This annual event honors Howard County women who have made significant contributions to Howard County, the State of Maryland or the nation through their profession and/or community service and who are models of achievement for tomorrow's female leaders. The deadline for submission is **Saturday, December 1**.

To be eligible for this award, nominees can be either living or deceased and must have lived in Howard County for at least 10 years. Up to five women will be selected for induction at the Commission's annual Women's Hall of Fame ceremony in **March 2013**.

To obtain a copy of the nomination form, visit the Department of Citizen Services' website at [www.howardcountymd.gov/whofnominationform.pdf](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/whofnominationform.pdf) or contact the Department either by calling **410-313-6400** or by e-mailing [women@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:women@howardcountymd.gov).

## Hunger-Free Howard!

Across Howard County, faith-based communities, clubs, organizations, schools and associations are choosing to be a part of the Hunger Free initiative to support the Howard County Food Bank, administered by Community Action Council of Howard County. **HOW IT WORKS:** Each month, the group chooses 1 item that they would like to ask their members to bring to donate to the Food Bank. In January, it might be cereal; in February, a jar of peanut butter.

If you are part of an organization or as an individual who would like to mobilize members to donate food, please contact **Lisa Clossin**, Volunteer Coordinator at **410-313-0703** or email [Lclossin@cac-hc.org](mailto:Lclossin@cac-hc.org).

## Teach Your Teens Safe Driving Techniques!

The Howard County Police Department promotes traffic safety and is now offering Collision Avoidance Training (CAT) which provides our youth the opportunity to develop safe driving habits. This is an advanced defensive driving and vehicle control program designed for licensed teenage drivers (16-19yrs). The objective is to enhance awareness and prepare teens to handle hazards that occur during in normal driving conditions.

The two day program (12 hours) will be offered: and **December 7-8**. Each student must successfully complete each driving skill/maneuver in order to receive a certificate of completion. The cost is \$95. For questions, please call **410-313-3758**.

## FY14 Citizens' Budget Hearing!

County Executive Ulman will hold his first Citizens' Budget Hearing for the FY2014 budget cycle on **Wednesday, December 12, 2013** at **7pm** in the Banneker Room of the George Howard Building, **3430 Court House Drive in Ellicott City**. Beginning on Wednesday, **November 28<sup>th</sup>**, residents are invited to sign-up online to speak at the hearing by clicking [here](#). From the same link, residents will also have the option to provide online budget testimony; however, residents are reminded that internet testimony is considered public information and, as such, is subject to the Maryland Public Information Act.

Residents who do not wish to sign up online, will still be able to sign-up in person on the night of the public hearing beginning at 6pm. Speakers must sign up individually, and one person may not sign up for several testifiers. An interpreter for people who are deaf or hard of hearing will be available, if requested, seven days prior to the hearing. To arrange for an interpreter, call the Department of Citizen Services at **410-313-6400** or use **Relay (7-1-1)**. If you need additional accommodations, contact the Budget office at **410-313-2077**.

## Interested In Attending the 2013 Presidential Inauguration – Need Tickets?

The 2013 Presidential Inauguration will be held in Washington DC on **Monday, January 21, 2013**. Many residents have contacted my office inquiring as to how to request tickets to this special event. Tickets must be requested through your federally elected official's office. Not sure who your representative is? Click [here](#).

Senator Mikulski: <http://www.mikulski.senate.gov/contact/>

Senator Cardin: <http://www.cardin.senate.gov/contact/index.cfm>

Congressman Sarbanes: 410-832-8890

Congressman Ruppersberger: 410-628-2701

Congressman Cummings: 410-465-8259 or visit <http://cummings.house.gov/serving-you/2013-inauguration-tickets>

## CA's International Exchange and Multicultural Program!

Experience a different culture and travel abroad! The International Exchange Program offers exchange opportunities for youth and adults with Columbia's sister cities — Tres Cantos, Spain, and Cergy-Pontoise, France.

Since 1977, the Columbia Association has been offering summer exchange programs for high school students. Students spend approximately two weeks during the summer living with host students and their families to experience Spanish or French culture, languages and traditions in Tres Cantos, Spain, or Cergy-Pontoise, France. After returning to the United States, students host their Spanish or French student counterparts for another two weeks. Group activities are organized for participants, both abroad and in the U.S.

Applicants must be high school students who reside in Howard County and have completed high school level three of Spanish or French or have the equivalent language fluency by the end of the academic year of participation.

**Information Sessions for parents and teens to learn more about CA's 2013 High School International Exchange are scheduled as follows: Thursday, Dec. 6 and; Wed, Jan. 7.** All sessions run from **7 to 8pm** in the CA Boardroom, 10221 Wincopin Circle, Columbia 21044. For details and application info, click [here](#).

## PSC Hosts Hearing on BGE for Public Comment!

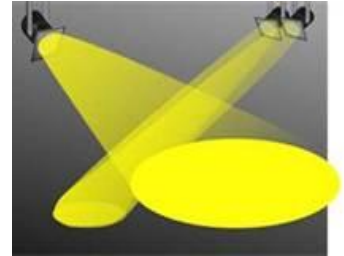
On August 29, 2012, the Public Service Commission issued Order No. 85086 in which it directed BGE to host public hearings for the purpose of receiving public comment in connection with its application for adjustments in its electric and gas base rates. The Howard County Public Hearing has been scheduled for **Wednesday, January 16, 2013 7pm** in the Banneker Room at the George Howard Building, **3430 Court House Drive in Ellicott City, MD**. Written comments can also be filed by **Friday, January 18, 2013** and should be addressed to **David J. Collins, Executive Secretary, Maryland Public Service Commission, William Donald Schaefer Tower, 6 St. Paul Street, 16<sup>th</sup> Fl, Baltimore, MD 21202** and should reference "Case No. 9299".

## County's Comprehensive Rezoning Effort Underway!

Howard County's Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ) has launched its countywide rezoning process and is accepting proposals for zoning map and regulation amendments through **December 14, 2012**. Any property owner may request a zoning map change on their property. Proposals for both types of zoning changes should be made via the official request forms available on the County's website at [www.howardcountymd.gov/compzoning](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/compzoning). The 2012 Comprehensive Rezoning effort will include the following steps:

1. DPZ accepts requests for zoning map and regulation changes
2. DPZ compiles and evaluates all requests
3. DPZ submits recommended changes to Planning Board and posts signs on all properties
4. Planning Board conducts a public hearing on recommendations
5. Planning Board submits recommended acts to the Administration and County Council
6. The Administration's revised proposal is introduced as legislation to the County Council for its consideration
7. County Council holds a public hearing
8. County Council votes on recommendations

The overall process is likely to be complete prior to the Council's 2013 summer recess. For general information and questions about the comprehensive rezoning process, residents may submit specific inquiries via email to [compzoning@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:compzoning@howardcountymd.gov) or call **410-313-0500**.



### SPOTLIGHT ON HOWARD COUNTY!

I'd like to take a brief moment and acknowledge some outstanding organizations in Howard County whom I've had the privilege to present with an Honorary Resolution from the Howard County Council.

**Howard County Muslim Council**, Celebrating 10 years of dedicated service and outstanding commitment to our community.

**Mamie Perkins**, upon retirement from the Howard County Public School System.

## Howard County Preschool and Child Care Information Fair!

This annual fair provides parents, guardians, grandparents and child care personnel with a "one stop shop" for information on child care and pre-school programs, as well as the opportunity to talk face-to-face with teachers and program directors. Representatives from community service organizations that provide programs and services to Howard County's young children will be on hand to furnish information to parents. This event will be held on **Saturday, January 26, 2013 9am-1pm** in the **Ten Oaks Ballroom, 5000 Signal Bell Lane in Clarksville**. No time has yet been announced.

For more information, call the Office of Children's Services at **410-313-1940** or email **Debbie Yare** at [DYare@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:DYare@howardcountymd.gov).

## Equal Business Opportunity Initiative!

Howard County Government is committed in fostering a strong socio-economic environment by promoting diversity and inclusiveness in its purchasing activities. To this effect, the County's Equal Business Opportunity Program is designed to enhance opportunities and increase participation of minority, woman and disabled business enterprises. For more information on how your business can benefit from this program, contact **Mahesh Sabnani**, Equal Business Opportunity Coordinator, Office of Purchasing at **410-313-3694**. Mr. Sabnani will be pleased to provide your business with guidance, assistance and direction.

## Recreation & Parks Announce Deer Management Program for 2012-2013!

Howard County's Department of Recreation & Parks has announced its fall/winter schedule of managed deer hunts. These hunts are held in an effort to help maintain a stable, balanced white-tailed deer population in our parks where deer browsing has been shown to reduce biodiversity. The hunting schedule is as follows but can also be accessed online at

[www.howardcountymd.gov/deermanagement.htm](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/deermanagement.htm)

Alpha Ridge Park	
Bow & Shotgun	January 3; January 17
Blandair Park	
Bow Hunting	November 27; February 5
David Force Park	
Bow & Shotgun	January 8; February 6
High Ridge Park	
Shotgun Hunting	January 9; January 30
Middle Patuxent Environmental Area	
Bow & Shotgun	January 7; January 28; February 11; February 19
Schooley Mill Park	
Shotgun Hunting	November 26; January 2; January 15; January 29; February 12

## Save the Date... Money Matters Fair 2013!

Kick-off Financial Education month with a fun-filled line-up of activities and classes to learn smart ways to stretch your money! This fair will be held on **Saturday, April 6, 2013** from **10am-1pm** at the Each Columbia Branch Library, **6600 Cradlerock Way in Columbia**. The fair includes hands-on activities, information and resources for personal finance, financial aid for college, free credit reports and tax advice. For more details, call **410-313-3105** or email [kpruim@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:kpruim@howardcountymd.gov).

## Exciting Youth Opportunities to Stay Active and Involved!

One of my missions is to provide awareness of programs within Howard County that provide a positive outlet for our youth. This allows them to channel their inner talent and participate in positive activities. Listed below you will find helpful links for parents and youth.

**4H Club:** For youth grades 3+. Meets **2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month** at The Other Barn 3:30-5pm. Call 410-992-3726 for more info

**Art Attack** Creative after-school enrichment program from the Columbia Art Center. Meets **1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays**.

Registration/Fees may apply. Call 410-992-3726.

**Columbia Teen Center** [http://www.columbiaassociation.com/content/getinvolved/teens/teen\\_center.cfm](http://www.columbiaassociation.com/content/getinvolved/teens/teen_center.cfm) or 410-992-3726

**FINALLY! Something to Do in Howard County** [www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=52321251379](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=52321251379)

**Howard County Library** [www.hclibrary.org/index.php?page=22](http://www.hclibrary.org/index.php?page=22)

**Voices For Change** <http://www.facebook.com/HCV4C#!/HCV4C/info> or email [MMekelburg7@verizon.net](mailto:MMekelburg7@verizon.net)

**Youth Howard County** [www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=47846991445&v=info&ref=ts](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=47846991445&v=info&ref=ts)

## Help Those in Need - Route 1 Day Center and Living in Recovery Needs Your Help!

The Day Resource Center relies on donations and volunteers to make meaningful contributions to the lives of those they serve. Please consider by helping by donating the following items that are in short supply: Batteries, men's underwear, men's jeans, thermal socks, bottled water – 20oz size, Gatorade, peanut butter and jelly, tuna, canned chicken, chef Boyardee-15oz can, spaghetti-15oz can, chunky soups, dinty moore beef stew, baked beans with meat, underwood deviled ham, libby's canned corned beef, Vienna sausages, spam, beef jerky and canned fruit. There are also volunteer opportunities at the Center and outside the Center. Please check their website for current lists of supply and volunteer needs at [www.daycenter.org](http://www.daycenter.org).

Living in Recovery is a new nonprofit organization formed to provide sober housing for persons in recovery from drug or alcohol addiction. As they plan to open doors on their second house in July, they are turning to the community for furniture donations. Items in good condition should include: mattress (box springs and frames for twin), pillows, bedding sets, twin or full size only, dressers, night stands, bed lamps, sofas, arm chairs, end tables, floor lamps, dining table and chairs, folding chairs, coffee maker, toaster, toaster oven, microwave, vacuum cleaner, dinnerware, glassware, flatware, cookware, iron and board, towels bath mats, shower curtains, window coverings and drapes or shades. If you can help, please email Joe at [JWillmott@verizon.net](mailto:JWillmott@verizon.net).



## Make a Difference In a Student's Life... A-Ok Mentors Needed!

A-OK (Assist Our Kids) Mentoring-Tutoring, Inc. is now recruiting adult volunteers to be mentor-tutors to Howard County public school students who need extra support and encouragement to succeed. Volunteers meet with students individually or in small groups, during the school day and in after school programs. A-OK seeks dependable community members who can commit to one hour/week for one school year.

Participating elementary schools are: Atholton, Bryant Woods, Cradlerock, Deep Run, Forest Ridge, Guilford, Longfellow, Phelps Luck, Running Brook and Stevens Forest. There are also limited opportunities to meet with older students. For more info, call Chaya Kaplan at [aokmentor@gmail.com](mailto:aokmentor@gmail.com) or call 410-730-6030.

## Health Care Options For You or Your Family!

The "Door to HealthCare" provides for the consolidation of applications and application processes for the numerous health programs available for those who are under/uninsured. Individuals sit down with a counselor or work alone at a kiosk to enter personal data (including: family make0up, income, etc.) which will determine the programs for which you and/or family members are eligible. The information will quickly be transferred electronically into the proper application and the process is complete. Services provided include: MCHP, MA, PAC and the Healthy Howard Health Plan.



"The Door to HealthCare" is located to the rear of 7178 Columbia Gateway Drive in Columbia, MD. For further information, call 410-988-3737.

## Share Your Opinion on the Howard County Public School System!

You are cordially invited to share your comments on the Howard County Public School System through the Goal 2 Survey. This survey measures your attitudes in five categories: welcoming environment, physical environment, discipline, nurturing learning environment and diversity/commonality. Your responses should reflect your feelings about the school your child attends. To participate, click [here](#). For assistance or for more info, call 410-313-7475 or 410-313-6755.

## Financial Assistance Corner

We are experiencing an unprecedented economic recession and while Howard County may be consistently identified as one of the wealthiest counties in the United States, our residents and families are feeling the squeeze of this economic crisis. I receive a lot of calls to my office asking for referrals and county assistance so I wanted to take a moment and dedicate a section in my Newsletter identifying resources to help our residents save money.

**TAX CREDITS:** The most quick and efficient way to reduce your expenses is to consider the tax credits available to you as Howard County residents. For your convenience, I have listed examples below as well as their respective online application; however you can find a complete list and instructions on how to apply at

<http://countyofhowardmd.us/Services.aspx?id=6442458618> or by calling 410-313-4076. Please note that some of these credits are based upon fund availability, so please contact the office directly for the most up-to-date information.

Senior Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=1492>

Homeowners Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=1558>

Homestead Tax Credit: <http://www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/homestead.html>

Energy Conservation Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442455147>

Daycare Provider Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Amateur Sports Athletic Fields Property Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Surviving Spouse of Fallen Law Enforcement Officer or Rescue Worker:

<http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Community Associations Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Renovation of Historic Property Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Trash Collection Fee Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

## "Your Local Career Connection" Helps In Your Search For Employment!

Howard County's Office of Workforce Development is here for you! The center is geared towards meeting the workforce and employment needs of businesses and job seekers in the 21st century labor market. They provide companies and individuals ranging from professional, technical and managerial to entry level. It offers residents a variety of tools to aid in a job search. The full service center is equipped with computers, fax machines, telephones, internet access and copiers – all to assist you with your employment search. Customized recruitment events are held for businesses and space is available to use for interviewing.

For more details, visit <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/departments.aspx?ID=1863> or call 410-290-2620. The calendar of events is online at <http://www.dllr.state.md.us/county/howard/howcal.shtml>.

## FREE Career Advancement and Computer Training for Adults!

Find a job or move up in your current position! This opportunity is **FREE** for low- to moderate-income residents of Howard County. Registration is **Mondays 10am-2pm** or by appointment and is located at Pinnacle Career Resources, Chartwell Professional Park, 8180 Lark Brown Road, Suite 301 in Elkridge. For more details, call Cindy at 410-799-1097.

## Do You Need Bulk-Item Pick-Up?

Bulk Trash Item pick-up has resumed but items must be scheduled by calling 410-313-6444 or visiting [www.HowardCountyBulkPickup.org](http://www.HowardCountyBulkPickup.org). These items typically do not fit in trash cans and could include mattresses, chairs, sofas, dressers, tables, etc. Bulk METAL Item pick-up began starting **October 1, 2012** and must be scheduled in advance by calling 410-313-6444. Items must be placed at the curb by **6am** (no earlier than 6pm the night before). Please do not block mailboxes or fire hydrants. **NOTE:** It is illegal for anyone except Howard County's contractors to pick up scrap metal at the curb (Howard County Code 18.610)

## Foreign Born Information and Referral Network!

The Foreign Born Information and Referral Network, 5999 Harpers Farm Road, Suite 200-E in Columbia needs Spanish-speaking volunteers to greet clients, answer basic questions, make appointments and support the staff. Hours are **9am-1pm or 1-5pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday**. Other times may be considered. For more information, call 410-992-1923 x 14.

## BRAC Corner!

Are you a business owner interested in becoming a contractor or already a Defense Contractor looking for additional information? The BRAC Business Initiative (BBI) is inviting businesses interested in accessing government contracting opportunities and becoming a qualified prime or sub-contractor to register with the BBI's new Match-Up Database. A number of defense contractors and government agencies are already using the Match-Up Database to determine which BBI businesses may possess the capabilities they require. Many companies registered in the Database have already been selected to meet with large prime contractors to partner and increase business.

Here is a list of the upcoming important events:

- **Wednesday, November 28<sup>th</sup> 8-12pm:** 21<sup>st</sup> Baltimore-Washington Region Government Procurement Fair. Learn how to conquer government procurement opportunities! This event includes matchmaking sessions, information briefings, panel discussions and over 50 different government agencies. For more info, visit [www.bwcc.org](http://www.bwcc.org) or call 301-725-4000.
- **Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> 8-10am:** BBI Monthly Meeting. The Future of Fort Meade. Hear from Fort Meade Commander Col. Ed Rothstein, Whiting-Turner Contracting, receive a BBI Program update and Network with fellow contractors! This event is open to all businesses and reservations are NOT required. Doors open at 7:30am. This event will be held at The Other Barn, 5851 Robert Oliver Place in Columbia.

The database is **FREE** of charge and open to all local companies interested in generating more business within the defense community. The Match-Up Database can be found at <http://www.selfvetting.com/events/BBI/APL/> and registering in the database automatically makes a company a member of the BBI.

For any questions on the BBI or our monthly update meetings, call **Raj Kudchadkar** at 410-313-6376 or email [rkudchadkar@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:rkudchadkar@howardcountymd.gov).

## Vacancies on Howard County's Boards and Commissions

Howard County Government is actively seeking volunteers to serve on several Boards and Commissions. Below you will find details including information on how to apply.

- **Alcohol & Drug Abuse Advisory Board.** Board members serve five year terms and help review services and the need for services relating to alcohol or drug abuse education, treatment and prevention in Howard County. Candidates must be 18yrs or older, have an interest in drug and alcohol treatment and prevention services and be able to attend the Board's meetings on the third Wednesday of each month from **5:15-6:30pm**. For details, call **410-313-6225**.
- **Board of Social Services.** Board members serve three year terms and provide advice on the application and formulation of state policies, procedures and programs that apply to Howard County and to evaluate the local director of the Department of Social Services. Candidates must be Howard County residents, 18yrs or older, have an interest in social services, and be able to attend the Board's meetings held the third Monday of each month at **4pm** in the Department of Social Services Conference Room, **7121 Columbia Gateway Drive in Columbia**. For details, call **410-872-8767**.
- **Commission for Women.** Commission members serve five year terms and help to promote the economic, social and political equality of women in Howard County. The Commission publicizes services and activities of interest to women, promotes a positive image of women and recognizes their accomplishments, encourages the expansion of educational and employment opportunities for women and sponsors workshops and seminars on issues specific to women. Candidates must be Howard County residents, 18 years of age or older, have an interest in women equality and be able to attend the Commission's meetings which are held the second Tuesday of each month from **7-9pm** in the Gateway Building, **6751 Columbia Gateway Drive in Columbia**. For details, call **410-313-6400**.
- **Consumer Affairs Advisory Board.** Board members serve five year terms and are responsible for reviewing the Office of Consumer Affairs programs, holding public hearings as deemed necessary and making recommendations to the Office on how it may better carry out its duties. To be eligible for consideration, applicants must be Howard County residents, 18 years of age or older, have an interest in consumer issues and be able to attend the Board's meetings which are held the **third Wednesday** of each month from **7-9pm** at the Bain Center, **5470 Ruth Keeton Way in Columbia**.
- **Board of Electrical Examiners.** Commission is comprised of seven members who serve five year terms and must include two licensees under electrical regulations or representatives of an electrical inspection bureau, one electrical engineer and four general public members. Board members are responsible for making recommendations to the Director of Inspections, Licenses and Permits (DILP), the County Executive and the County Council on all matters relating to electrical work in Howard County, including the conduct of electrical business and licenses. To be eligible, candidates must be Howard County residents, 18 years of age or older and have an interest in electrical work. The Board meets on an as needed basis; meetings are held at **5pm** in DILP, **3430 Court House Drive** in Ellicott City. For more info, visit <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/electriclexaminersboard.htm> or call **410-313-1820**.
- **Recreation & Parks Advisory Board – Student Member.** The Board is comprised of nine voting members who serve five year terms and one student, non-voting member, who serves a one-year term from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013. The Advisory Board provides recommendations related to plans, policies and programs for public recreation and reviews plans for and hold hearings on the acquisition and development of land for public recreation and open space. Candidates must be Howard County residents, under the age of 18 years old, have an interest in recreation and parks and be able to attend the Board's meetings which are held approximately once a month throughout the year beginning at 7:30pm at the Department of Recreation and Parks Headquarters, **7120 Oakland Mills Road** in Columbia. For details, call **410-313-4700** or visit [www.howardcountymd.gov/RAP](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/RAP).

Applicants should send a resume and a brief letter explaining why they want to serve to: Howard County Government, Department of County Administration, Attn: **Susan Smith-Bauk, 3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043**.

## CAC's Weatherization Program Changes Eligibility Requirements to

The Community Action Council administers the Weatherization program for the State of Maryland. Recently, the State has changed the eligibility criteria for the program to include moderate income families. As such, the program is no longer only targeting low income families. Based upon the new guidelines, many friends and family members might be eligible for this wonderful **FREE** service.

Is your home energy efficient? Determine if you are eligible for **FREE** weatherization services. Maximum family income for eligibility is as follows:

Family Size	Gross Monthly Income
1	\$4,079
2	\$4,663
3	\$5,242
4	\$5,821
5	\$6,292

Applications are available online at [http://cac-hc.org/cac\\_howtoapplyweatherization.htm](http://cac-hc.org/cac_howtoapplyweatherization.htm). For more info, call **410-313-1181**.



## Give the Gift of Independence!

Neighbor Ride launched its volunteer-based transportation service in 2004 with the mission to decrease isolation and improve the quality of life for Howard County's older residents. Today, its dedicated volunteers provide an average of 1,000 trips per month for medical appointments, shopping, social outings, personal care and business, religious services, volunteer activities and other day-to-day needs.

YOU can give seniors the gift of independence by volunteering as a Neighbor Ride driver. Flexible and rewarding daytime, evening and weekend opportunities are available. No set schedule is required. Drivers simply choose to provide rides that are convenient to their homes, offices and daily routines. Parent volunteers are welcome and encouraged to bring their children along for a wonderful experience. Please contact **Patrice Cerwonka, Colleen Konstanzer or Rosemary Noble** at 410-884-RIDE (7433) or email [volunteer@neighborride.org](mailto:volunteer@neighborride.org) for more information.



## Start a Neighborhood Watch Program in Your Community!

The Neighborhood Watch Program involves the joint efforts of the Howard county Police Department and the community designed to enhance neighborhood security, heighten the community's power of observation and encourage mutual assistance and concern among neighbors.

For more information, please contact the Howard County Police Department at 410-313-2200.

## "Guaranteed Ride Home" Comes to Howard County!

A program that gives a **FREE** ride home to commuters who travel to work via mass transit, car-pooling or walking at least twice a week is coming to Howard County. "Guaranteed Ride Home" offers regular commuters a free ride home in a taxi or rental car up to four times a year and is funded by the Maryland Department of Transportation.

To be eligible to participate in the program, commuters must register online at [www.commuterconnections.org](http://www.commuterconnections.org) or call 1-800-745-RIDE (7433).

## Recycling... Do's And Don'ts!

Ever wondered what is considered recyclable and what is not? You may be surprised to find out. For a complete list, visit <http://countyofhowardmd.us/whatshouldidowith.htm> or call 410-313-6444. If it snows on your recycling day and recycling has been cancelled for the day, recyclables may be picked up on a slide schedule. For the most up-to-date information, call 410-313-7678 or visit <http://countyofhowardmd.us/recycling.htm>.

## Howard County Safety... Helpful Hints!

- Experiencing an Emergency? Dial 9-1-1
- Want to report an incident, non-emergency? Call 410-313-2200
- Need to report drug activity? Call 410-290-3784 or email [ACunningham@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:ACunningham@howardcountymd.gov)
- Want to make an anonymous tip (e.g. child abuse, violence, gangs, gambling, school incidents, underage drinking, damage to property etc.)? Call 410-313-7867 or email [GangTips@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:GangTips@howardcountymd.gov)
- Want to report gun crimes? Call 410-313-7867 or email [CToler@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:CToler@howardcountymd.gov).
- Do you need Victim Assistance? Call 410-313-3712 or email [KMasterson@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:KMasterson@howardcountymd.gov)
- Interested in a FREE Home Security Survey? Call 410-313-4795 and leave a message to make an appointment. For more info, call the Special Operations Bureau at 410-313-3758 or visit <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/aboutpolice.htm>
- Want to start a Neighborhood Watch? Call the Community Services Section at 410-313-4780.
- Looking to prevent Auto Theft? Helpful tips available at <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/departments.aspx?ID=6442451452>
- Want to report an animal cruelty incidence or report unwanted pets, endangered animals, etc.? Call 410-313-2780, email [animalcontrol@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:animalcontrol@howardcountymd.gov) or visit <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/animalcontrol.htm>
- Are speeders in your neighborhood? Consider the SMART Program initiative. Info available at [www.co.ho.md.us/Police/pd\\_smartprogram.htm](http://www.co.ho.md.us/Police/pd_smartprogram.htm)
- Looking for personal safety tips? Visit [www.co.ho.md.us/police/pd\\_personalsafety.htm](http://www.co.ho.md.us/police/pd_personalsafety.htm)
- Interested in a Police Ride-Along? Call 410-313-2208 for an application
- Need a HCPD Spanish line? Call 410-313-7807.
- Interested in volunteering with the HCPD? Call 410-313-2255
- Interesting in HCPD Recruitment? Call 410-313-4273.

## Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Residents 62 and Older!

The Howard County Office on Aging, through Maryland Access Point (MAP), is offering Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Maryland residents ages 62 and older who are considering this as an option. The counseling is targeted to seniors who may be able to pay for their everyday expenses but are struggling to cover the costs of health care, home repairs and modifications, increased property taxes and other unexpected expenses.

To schedule a counseling session or learn more about the costs and features of a reverse mortgage, call MAP of Howard County's toll free number: **1-800-506-5806**.

## Medicare Patients – Looking for a Local Doctor!

The Medicare.gov site is the place to find information about Medicare. The webpage provides detailed information about the basics of Medicare, resources, preventative health care and much more. If you're looking for a local doctor who accepts Medicare, visit [www.Medicare.gov/find-a-doctor](http://www.Medicare.gov/find-a-doctor). Fill in your zipcode and any preferences you might have and instantly you will be given a list of providers in your area! For more details, call **1-800-MEDICARE**.

## How and When to Use the Emergency Room!

Remember in Howard County, there are a number of affordable alternatives to the Emergency Room if you are ill (coughs, colds, ear infections, minor burns, strains/sprains), but **not** experiencing a medical emergency. These "minute clinics" are a great resource to receive medical attention on a weekend, late night, or simply when your regular physician cannot see you. Many have extended and weekend hours and do not require appointments. Most accept insurance but please call the provider/clinic for details.

For additional information or a list of providers, visit our Health Department's [website](#) or call **410-313-6300**.

## Alzheimer's Support Groups in Howard County!

Howard County proudly offers several Alzheimer's Support Groups at various locations throughout the County during days and times that are geared at accommodating the needs of those impacted by Alzheimer's. Pre-screening is required. For support group locations in Howard County, click [here](#). For more information on the Alzheimer's Association, call **1-800-272-3900** or visit [www.alz.org/maryland](http://www.alz.org/maryland).

## In Need of Crisis Intervention?

Grassroots is a private, non-profit agency serving Howard County and Central Maryland and empowers people in crisis to make positive changes by offering professional 24-hour crisis intervention, shelter and outreach services.

Grassroots provides programs and services including a 24-hour crisis intervention hotline, Maryland Crisis Hotline, Walk-in Counseling, Mobile Crisis Team, Suicide Prevention, outreach and education, a 33-bed Family Shelter, an 18-bed Men's Shelter, a Motel Shelter, Cold Weather Shelter and Day Resource Center.

Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, Inc. is located at **6700 Freetown Road, Columbia, MD 21044**. For more information, please call **410-531-6006** or visit their website online at [www.grassrootscrisis.org](http://www.grassrootscrisis.org). The 24-hour line is **410-531-6677** and the MD Crisis Hotline is **1-800-422-0009**.

## At-Large Members Needed for Community Advisory Council!

The Community Advisory Council to the Board of Education is currently seeking at-large members for the coming school year. The council sponsors educational programming for members and provides the opportunity to study and have input into curriculum, educational policy, redistricting and budget.

The committee meets at **7:30pm** the third Tuesday of each month at the Department of Education, **10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD**. At-large members serve a two-year term. For more information, please call **410-313-6682** or email [tjmallo@verizon.net](mailto:tjmallo@verizon.net).

## Transparency in Our Government!

If you believe there has been an instance of fraud, waste, and/or abuse in our government, we want to hear from you! Allegations of Fraud, Waste and Abuse in Howard County Government should be submitted to the Howard County Auditor's Office. All submittals are encrypted and password protected for security. We treat all allegations in a confidential matter and we'll do our very best to safeguard your identity!

To report an allegation, visit <http://cc.howardcountymd.gov/DisplayPrimary.aspx?ID=4294969242>. If you do not wish to disclose your identity, you may remain anonymous; however, you should be aware that remaining anonymous may preclude a thorough investigation of your allegation due to insufficient information.

For more information, email [hcaudit@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:hcaudit@howardcountymd.gov) or call 410-313-2005.

## View the Council's Current Legislation and Calendar and Stay Informed!

The County Council is responsible for adopting laws within Howard County. The legislative progress generally follows a monthly cycle. To view legislation under consideration by the Council, please click on the following link <http://cc.howardcountymd.gov/Displayprimary.aspx?ID=4294968832>. Council meetings open to the public and I encourage you to join us. A list of upcoming meetings can be found online at <http://cc.howardcountymd.gov/displayprimary.aspx?ID=6442459444>.

## I Want to Hear From You!

This is your opportunity to stay informed and get involved! Your comments are always welcome as the County Council reviews legislation. You may testify in person or simply submit your testimony by email to [Councilmail@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:Councilmail@howardcountymd.gov) or fax 410-313-3297.

All legislative public hearings will take place in the **Board of Education, Board Room A, 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD 21042.**

## RECYCLE your old TV's!

The Howard County Bureau of Environmental Services would like to remind residents to recycle analog TV's rather than throw them away. Options: Alpha Ridge Landfill Resident's Convenience Area open **8am-4pm** Mon-Sat and Best Buy's Customer Take-Back Program. For more info, call 410-313-6444.

Dr. Calvin Ball  
Howard County Council  
District 2  
3430 Courthouse Drive  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

[cball@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:cball@howardcountymd.gov)

[http://www.howardcountymd.gov/CountyCouncil/CC\\_DistrictTwo.htm](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/CountyCouncil/CC_DistrictTwo.htm)

*"Our prime purpose in this life is to help others."* ~ Dalai Lama